



Be Certain You're Ready for EAB!

If you haven't heard by now – and I hope that everyone reading this already has – emerald ash borer (EAB) has been confirmed in several locations around St. Louis. Last year, an ash tree in Lake St. Louis was found to be infested and this spring and summer, trees in north St. Louis City and in Creve Coeur were discovered. At this point, it's safe to say that EAB has likely spread through a major portion of St. Louis and St. Charles.

If you're unfamiliar with this insect, EAB is an exotic Asian beetle accidentally introduced into North America before 2002. Its larvae feed on and kill ash trees and have destroyed millions of ash trees beginning in Michigan but has spread through much of the eastern United States. In July 2008, a small infestation was discovered in Missouri at a Wappapello Lake campground. Since then, the beetle has been detected in other areas in the state. For more information on the insect and where it has been found, go here: <http://extension.missouri.edu/treepests/emeraldashborer.aspx>



Emerald ash borer

Much of Missouri's woodlands and forests are made up of other species besides ash – ash comprises only about 4% of the trees – but ash has been a very popular tree in yards, parks, and along city streets. Some local municipalities estimate their street and park tree populations to be close to 40% ash. Once established in an area (EAB is considered established in St. Louis) history shows us that EAB kills about 80% of the ash trees within 7-10 years. Consider what your street, subdivision, or local park will look like in 5-10 years. . .very different.

Many cities in the St. Louis area have begun ash population reduction and re-planting programs and are planning levels of treatment of their street and/or park trees to regulate tree losses. If you have an ash tree in your yard you need to consider your options before you're only left with one – removal of a dead tree.

Insecticide treatment for EAB is effective when performed properly on a tree in the early levels of – or prior to – infestation. Treatments range from annual trunk or soil applications that a homeowner can apply to injections that are only required every few years but must be performed by an arborist. This guide (http://mdc.mo.gov/sites/default/files/resources/2015/04/mo_eab_management_guide_2015.pdf) can help you through the decision-making process on what to do with your ash tree. We strongly recommend to make your decision soon before you have no options left!

By MARK GRUEBER, community forester



Full size adult emerald ash borer



Emerald ash borer larval galleries



Adult emerald ash borer emerging

Jay Henges Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

1100 Antire Road, High Ridge, MO 63049 • mdc.mo.gov/node/299



From the east/St. Louis
I-44 west to Beaumont Antire Road, exit 269. Left over I-44 to Antire Road. Right on Antire. One hundred feet to entrance.

From the west/Eureka
I-44 east to Beaumont Antire Road, exit 269. Follow exit lane around to top.

HOURS:

April 1 – November 30

Wednesday: 11 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Thursday and Saturday: 10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Friday and Sunday: 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

December 1 – March 31

Wednesday – Sunday: 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Programs are free. Call **636-938-9548** or email henges.range@mdc.mo.gov with your name and phone number to sign up for a program requiring registration. Up to two reservations are allowed per registration; groups should contact the range for more information. If you are unable to attend, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

With shorter days and typically colder weather, the Jay Henges Range will be switching to its winter public shooting schedule starting December 1. The range will still remain closed on all Mondays and Tuesdays for public shooting along with being closed on all state holidays. The range's public hours of operation will be Wednesdays thru Sundays from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. until April 1, 2016.



Basic Cold Weather Survival

Dec 2 • Wednesday • 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

(Families, appropriate for those 9 and up)

Prepare yourself for cold weather activities. Our program will provide information on selection of proper clothing, outdoor gear, fire-building, shelters, direction finding, avoiding weather-related hazards plus other outdoor tips to make your winter experiences safe and enjoyable. (Reservations begin Nov 2.)

Trigger Time – Handgun

Dec 13 • Sunday • 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.

(Ages 18 and up)

Missed that big buck or your target shot group just is not looking as tight as it should? Trigger Time is "hands-on" instruction designed to improve your existing marksmanship skills for hunting and traditional sports shooting. There is no classroom time, just expert instruction from our staff. Participants must bring their own handguns and ammunition, at least 100 rounds for each handgun if bringing more than one. This program is not appropriate for beginners. (Reservations begin Nov 13.)

Unless otherwise indicated, youth under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

Busch Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

2360 Hwy D, St. Charles, MO 63304 • mdc.mo.gov/node/270

Youth Hunter Education Challenge Kickoff Meeting YHEC

Dec 6 • Sunday • 2 – 4 p.m.

(Ages 11 – 18)

We will be hosting a YHEC informational meeting for youth ages 11 through 18 interested in participating in the 2016 YHEC competition. The competition includes rifle, shotgun, archery, muzzleloader, orienteering, wildlife identification, a hunter safety trail, and a written exam. Interested youth must attend this meeting with a parent. For more information contact Frank Scott at 636-262-5625.

Venison Cooking and Sausage Making

Dec 9 • Wednesday • 6 – 9 p.m.

(Ages 11 and up)

All of your hard work is finally going to pay off. You have harvested a deer, processed the meat and now it is time to cook. You will want to bring your appetite to this class. Our experienced hunters and cooks will give you some hands-on training on cooking and preparing venison for the table, as well as some sausage making recipes. When complete, there will be some food to sample. This program will be held at the August A. Busch Conservation Area classroom. Ages 11 - 16 must be accompanied by an adult. (Reservations begin Nov 9.)



Due to the range closure, all Busch Range programs will be held at the Busch Conservation Area classrooms in the St. Louis Regional Office unless otherwise noted.

Programs are free. Call **636- 441-4554** to register Monday through Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

AUGUST A. BUSCH MEMORIAL CONSERVATION AREA SHOOTING RANGE RENOVATIONS

The Missouri Department of Conservation's August A. Busch Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center in St. Charles is being renovated into an expanded state-of-the-art shooting range featuring more shooting stations and classroom facilities.

To expedite the renovations to the existing site, the shooting range is temporarily closed for public use and will remain closed for the duration of the renovation project. The new range will incorporate the most current national shooting range design standards, including an increased number of shooting stations, new classroom facility, and other building improvements for user convenience, safety, and reduced waiting times. For further information and a camera view of the construction site visit mdc.mo.gov, key word "Busch Range".

Unless otherwise indicated, youth under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center

11715 Cragwold Road, Kirkwood, MO 63122 • mdc.mo.gov/node/271



From I-44 east take the Watson Road exit and turn left on Geyer. Cross over the bridge and turn left on Cragwold Road. Follow one mile to the entrance. Enjoy nature exhibits, attend programs, purchase hunting and fishing permits, browse through a nature-related gift shop, and pick up free conservation brochures. Outdoors, enjoy three miles of hiking trails through oak-hickory forest.

HOURS:

Building: Tuesday – Saturday: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Area: Daily: 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. DST

8 a.m. – 6 p.m. CST

Programs are free. Call **314-301-1500** to register. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.



Nature Photography by Noppadol Paothong

Dec 4 • Friday • 7 p.m.

(All ages)

Ever wonder what it takes to be a nature photographer? MDC's very own award winning photographer, Noppadol Paothong, will spend an evening sharing his work, and what it really takes to make the best shots. His work has been recognized with over 60 regional and national awards, including *Best of Best in Photo* from the Outdoor Writers Association of America in 2013, three time finalist in *BBC Wildlife Photographer of the Year*, and the *Award of Excellence in Wildlife* in the Nikon Photo Contest International. Please call 314-301-1500 for reservations.

Nature and wildlife photography is a combination of art and science. It takes a labor of love and deep understanding as well as strong commitment, determination, persistence ... and patience. It also takes years of trials and errors and constant research. However, the results can be something so amazing that words cannot describe. If our life is measured by the moments that take our breath away, a nature/wildlife photographer surely has a wonderful job.

~Noppadol Paothong

Nature's Gifts

Dec 17 • Thursday • 9:30 – 11 a.m.

(Adults)

Join us at the nature center for a special winter program. We will begin with a short discussion on the history of cedar trees in Missouri and their great value to people and wildlife. You will then get the opportunity to create a beautiful holiday swag from cedar boughs and various other natural items. At the end of the program, we might visit for a few minutes over drinks we have made at our hot chocolate bar! (Reservations begin Dec 3.)

Winter Solstice Hike

Dec 22 • Tuesday • 10 a.m. – noon

(Ages 7 and up)

It's Winter Solstice – the shortest day of the year. Join us for a hike through the forest to see how nature is faring. Winter is an awesome time for bird-watching, so we will take binoculars out to get a close-up view. Then we will go inside for some hot chocolate and a discussion on exactly what Winter Solstice means to us and to the natural world. Dress for the weather; we will be taking a 1 1/5 mile hike. (Reservations begin Dec 8.)



Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center

11715 Cragwold Road, Kirkwood, MO 63122 • mdc.mo.gov/node/271

December Hallway Exhibit



Discover Nature with Us

Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center volunteers and staff share their love of nature through photography. Although we are not professional photographers, we share a common passion for our natural world. Please stop by during the month of December and discover nature through our eyes.



Forest Park Office

5595 Grand Drive, St. Louis, MO 63112 • mdc.mo.gov/node/10254



Winter in the Woods

Dec 11 • Friday • 1 – 3 p.m.

(Ages 10 and up)

Just because it is cold outside, don't let that stop you from getting out and discovering nature. We'll take a longer hike through the less traveled parts of Kennedy Forest, pausing at a few notable spots along the way. Covering approximately 3 miles, our feet will do the walking. Our senses will do the talking. Bundle up, bring a water bottle, wear sturdy shoes, and meet at the JFK Pavilion #11. (Reservations begin Nov 20.)



From I-44 take Kingshighway north to West Pine Blvd, turn left. Follow West Pine to Lindell, turn left. Continue on Lindell past Union Drive to Cricket, turn left. Take first right onto Grand Ave. The visitor's center is on the right.

HOURS:

Monday – Friday: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Programs are free. Call **314-877-1309** to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

Columbia Bottom Conservation Area

801 Strodtman Road, St. Louis, MO 63138 • mdc.mo.gov/node/298



From I-270 north, take the Riverview Drive exit (last Missouri exit); go north 2.8 miles. Riverview Drive becomes Columbia Bottom Road at its intersection with Larimore Road. The entrance is on the right-hand side.

HOURS:

Building: Wednesday – Friday: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Saturday – Sunday: 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Area: One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset except authorized activities.

Programs are free. Call **314-877-6014** to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.



Woodpecker Winter Treats

Dec 5 • Saturday • 10 – 11:30 am

(Families)

Rat-a-tat-tat-tat! What's that noise? It's a woodpecker you hear! Do woodpeckers get a headache when they hammer their heads against a tree, and how do they remain upright against a trunk? Learn the answers to these questions and more as we make special treats for our tree-loving friends. No nut products will be used during this do-it-yourself class. (Reservations begin Nov 20.)

Geocaching: An Introduction

Dec 12 • Saturday • 10 a.m. – noon

(All ages)

Bring your family to Columbia Bottom to be modern day explorers through the outdoor sport of geocaching. This adventurous activity is a modern day scavenger hunt which ties technology and nature together and is enjoyable at any age. Join us for an introduction on the basics of geocaching and then try your hand at hunting for hidden caches on the area. GPS units will be provided. (Reservations begin Nov 27.)

Those Crafty Trees

Dec 21 • Monday • noon – 2 p.m.

(Ages 9 and up)

Did you know that Missouri has 14 million acres of forest land containing millions of trees? That's about 1/3 of Missouri! Learn more about trees and their uses not only to humans, but to animals as well. Discover one of those uses, first-hand, by completing a craft project with wood burning! Each participant will burn a design into their very own tree "cookie" to take home or give as a gift. Children under 9 are welcome, but will receive markers to decorate with instead of a wood burner. (Reservations begin Dec 4.)



New Year's Eve Walk

Dec 31 • Thursday • 6:30 – 8 p.m.

(Ages 10 and up)

What better way to get refreshed for the New Year than a quiet stroll in the crisp winter night at Columbia Bottom? Be enlightened as we listen for our night time denizens and learn about the adaptations which enable them to conduct their activities in the dark at this cold time of the year. We'll spend a few minutes at the Confluence of the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers before we head back to our starting point. Dress warmly for the weather. Meet at parking lot "M" about 4 miles from the main entrance. (Reservations run Dec 12 through Dec 30.)



August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area

2360 Hwy D, St. Charles, MO 63304 • mdc.mo.gov/node/300

Orienteering: Features of a Topo Map

Dec 5 • Saturday • noon – 5 p.m.
(Ages 12 – 17 with an adult)

This four to six mile trek at Weldon Spring Conservation Area will offer an opportunity to advance your skills at map reading. While trekking up and down the rugged hills of John Weldon, you will learn to determine your position at all times as you pursue landmarks, history, and orienteering confidence. This experience was created for those who already have a working knowledge of an orienteering compass and want to learn more about off trail navigation. Effort = Moderate to Strenuous. Hills are steep and vegetation is thick. (Reservations begin Nov 23.)

Elusive Whitetails

Dec 12 • Saturday • 1 – 3 p.m.
(Ages 6 – 12)

If you wanted to hunt, photograph or just study wild white-tailed deer how would you go about it? First you would learn about the white-tailed deer and its habits. Then you would go outdoors to look for signs of white-tail activity. That's just what we are going to do during this class. Join us and learn a lot of cool stuff about these beautiful animals. Dress for being outside and going off trail. (Reservations begin Nov 27.)

Laser Night Hike 2.0

Dec 12 • Saturday • 5 – 9:30 p.m.
(Families with ages 10 and up)

Learn to determine a bearing from a map before you tackle two miles, through the woods, searching for waypoints in the northern section of the August A. Busch Conservation Area. This off-trail navigation has you armed with flashlight, compass, map, and laser pointers. Challenge, adventure, and "braggin' rights" await you. Prerequisite: a working knowledge/ability to follow a predetermined bearing with compass. Effort = Moderate. This is a two mile, off-trail trek, mostly flat terrain with forest vegetation. (Reservations begin Nov 25.)

Night Hike at Busch Hiking/Biking Trail

Dec 19 • Saturday • 6 – 9 p.m.
(All ages)

Experience the sounds of the night during a hike at the August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area. The Busch Hiking/Biking Trail is approximately three and a half miles long. You never know, we may hear coyotes howling or up to three species of owls calling their mates. This hike is rated as easy to moderate depending on the weather. (Reservations begin Dec 4.)



From I-64/40 take Hwy 94 south to Hwy D; turn west on D for approximately two miles. The area entrance is on the north side of Hwy D.

HOURS:

Building: Monday – Friday: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Area: Daily: 4 a.m. – 10 p.m.

Programs are free. Call **636-441-4554** to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

Night Time Off-Trail Navigation With Accuracy

Dec 26 • Saturday • 5:30 – 9:30 p.m.
(Families with ages 10 and up)

Challenge and adventure await your family on this two-three mile, night time navigation trip at Howell Island Conservation Area in Chesterfield. Your resources will be laser pointers, compass, map, GPS and experienced Naturalists. Navigate predetermined waypoint destinations utilizing all of your tools to gain navigation confidence. Effort = Moderate. Terrain is flat with some fallen trees and brush to avoid. (Reservations begin Dec. 9.)



Rockwoods Reservation

2751 Glencoe Road, Wildwood, MO 63038 • mdc.mo.gov/node/272

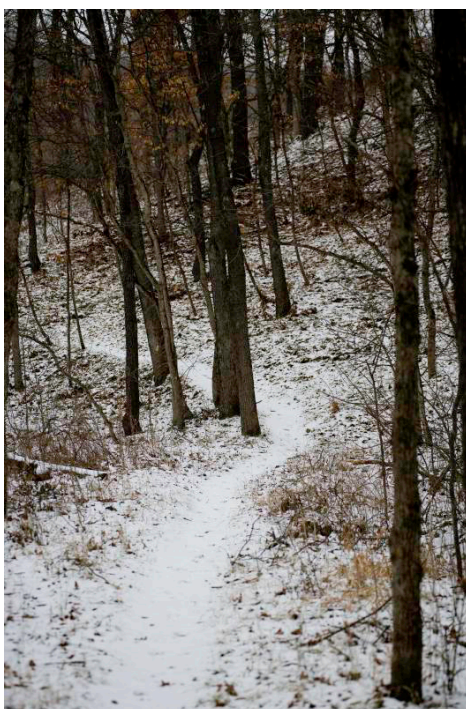


From I-44 take Hwy 109 north 4 miles to Woods Avenue; left on Woods Avenue, then immediately right on Glencoe Road. From Manchester Road take Hwy 109 south 2 miles to Woods Avenue; right on Woods Avenue, then immediately right on Glencoe Road.

HOURS:

Building: Monday–Friday: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Area: Sunrise to one-half hour after sunset except authorized activities.

Programs are free. Call **636-458-2236** to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.



Owl Prowl

Dec 4 • Friday • 6:30 – 8 p.m.

(Families)

Who's that hooting it up each December evening? Owls, that's who. You will learn what makes them such effective night-time hunters, and why they hoot so much this time of year. Please dress for the weather, because we will be going outside to see if we can hear or see any of these elusive nocturnal predators. We will be focusing on those owls that you might find in our state. (Reservations begin Nov 20.)

Brunch with the Birds

Dec 5 • Saturday • 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

(Adults)

Enjoy a winter day watching the birds while eating a delicious Dutch oven brunch. Learn to attract birds to your backyard and how to identify them once they've arrived. (Reservations begin Nov 20.)

Elusive Whitetails

Dec 15 • Tuesday • 1 – 3 p.m.

(Ages 6 – 12)

If you wanted to hunt, photograph or just study wild white-tailed deer how would you go about it? First you would learn about the white-tailed deer and its habitats. Then you would go outdoors and try to find signs of white-tail activity. That's just what we are going to do during this class. Join us and learn a lot of cool stuff about these beautiful animals. Dress for being outside and going off trail. (Reservations begin Dec 1.)



Winter in the Woods

Dec 21 • Monday • 10 – 11:30 a.m.

(Ages 3 – 7)

The forest may seem devoid of life in the winter, but look a little closer and you'll see it's just not true! Join us on the shortest day of the year to look for signs of winter animals, learn how they survive the winter, and make a tasty take-home treat for the winter animals that live in your backyard. (Reservations begin Dec 7.)

Conservation pays by enriching our economy and quality of life.